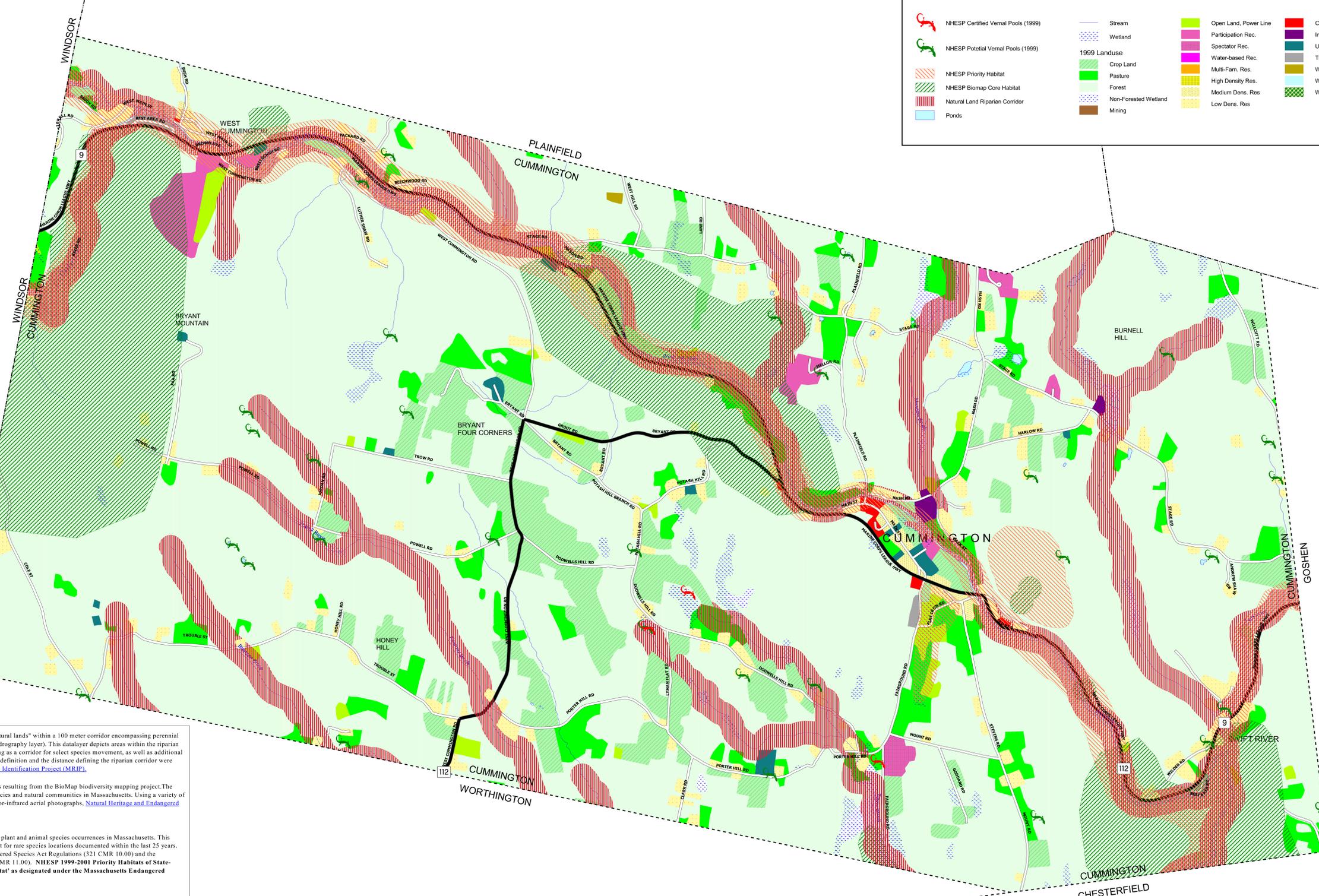
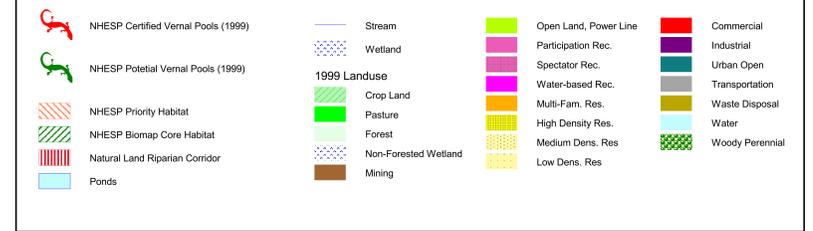




Cummington, Massachusetts Natural Environment



Natural Land Riparian Corridors are defined as "natural lands" within a 100 meter corridor encompassing perennial stream and river features (as coded in the MassGIS 1:25k Hydrography layer). This datalayer depicts areas within the riparian corridor that remain in a "natural state", potentially functioning as a corridor for select species movement, as well as additional ecological purposes. It is important to note the "natural land" definition and the distance defining the riparian corridor were tailored to meet the objectives of the [Massachusetts Resource Identification Project \(MRIP\)](#).

NHESP Biomap Core Habitat is one of two datalayers resulting from the BioMap biodiversity mapping project. The Core Habitat layer depicts the most viable habitat for rare species and natural communities in Massachusetts. Using a variety of data sources, primarily field data, ancillary literature, and color-infrared aerial photographs, [Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program \(NHESP\)](#) scientists.

NHESP Priority Habitat
This data layer represents areas of known state-protected rare plant and animal species occurrences in Massachusetts. This coverage is updated periodically and shows designated habitat for rare species locations documented within the last 25 years. This layer is designed for use with the Massachusetts Endangered Species Act Regulations (321 CMR 10.00) and the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act Regulations (301 CMR 11.00). **NHESP 1999-2001 Priority Habitats of State-Listed Rare Species: NOT equivalent to 'Significant Habitat' as designated under the Massachusetts Endangered Species Act.**

Certified and Potential Vernal Pools
Potential vernal pools visible on aerial photographs were interpreted and included in this layer. However, this datalayer does not include every vernal pool in Massachusetts. Many vernal pools have not been identified due to unfavorable conditions in the landscape topography, pool physiography and/or photograph quality. Furthermore, vernal pool habitats occur in a wide variety of landscape settings, including forested swamps, bogs, and other wetlands. Vernal pools within these settings were not typically interpreted, but are nonetheless legitimate and valuable vernal pools. Also, field verification of all potential vernal pools in this study will identify errors such as the inclusion of features that are not actually vernal pools. **Potential vernal pools identified in this survey are not to be confused with Certified Vernal Pools.** Potential vernal pools identified in this survey do not receive protection under the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act Regulations (310 CMR 10.00), or under any other state or federal wetlands protection laws.

Certified Vernal Pools contains points for all vernal pools certified by NHESP according to the Guidelines for Certification of Vernal Pool Habitat (5/88, MA Division of Fisheries and Wildlife). **NHESP 1999-2001 Massachusetts Certified Vernal Pools.**

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